NATURAL COMMUNITY SURVEY PART I: RECONNAISSANCE Maine Natural Areas Program

IDENTIFIERS / LOCATION

Survey area: Small Mammal Trap site #13 (near waste water treatment plant)			Date: 25 August 1999
(Site name:)		(Quadcode:)	Airphoto (#, scale, date):
Surveyors: Arthur Haines, Kate Kennedy	Town: Pittsfield County: Berkshire, MA (Biophysical Region:)	USGS 7.5' Quad: Pittsfield East (1:25,000)	

Mark all observation points on a copy of the topo. Add any comments or sketches here if necessary to clarify the topo.	Directions (if not obvious from topo or Maine Atlas): from Pittsfield Sewage Plant, follow road north (through yellow gate) and through large open field to road east (on right). Follow road east to end (concrete structure) and continue east 100 meters into floodplain in a left-facing right-angle of river channel.

VEGETATION / HABITAT

Observation Point 1	Observation Point 2	Observation Point 3
Community type: Floodplain Forest	Community type:	Community type:
Soil: Alluvial silt loam	Soil:	Soil:
Slope, aspect, topography Relatively flat plain	Slope, aspect, topography:	Slope, aspect, topography:
STRATA*: cover & 1-2 dominant spp. for each	STRATA*: cover & 1-2 dominant spp. for each	STRATA*: cover & 1-2 dominant spp. for each
Tree layer: Total cover (%): 50 Acer saccharinum Acer negundo Ulmus americana	Tree layer: Total cover (%):_____	Tree layer: Total cover (%):_____
Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%) 10 Ulmus americana Crataegus pinetorum Rhamnus frangula	Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%)_____	Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%)_____
Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%) 10 Cornus sericea Cornus amomum	Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%)_____	Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%)_____
Herb layer: Total cover (%) 80 Matteuccia struthiopteris Laportea canadensis Urtica dioica	Herb layer: Total cover (%)_____	Herb layer: Total cover (%)_____
Bryoid layer: Total cover (%)_____ Essentially absent	Bryoid layer: Total cover (%)_____	Bryoid layer: Total cover (%)_____
Other diagnostic or notable species:	Other diagnostic or notable species:	Other diagnostic or notable species:
Condition / evidence of human use: Urban flotsam	Condition / evidence of human use:	Condition / evidence of human use:
Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? 5.64 m tree cores? yes photos? yes	Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? tree cores? photos?	Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? tree cores? photos?

date: initials: p. _____ of _____

Observation Point 4	Observation Point 5	Observation Point 6
Community type:	Community type:	Community type:
Soil:	Soil:	Soil:
Slope, aspect, topography:	Slope, aspect, topography:	Slope, aspect, topography:
STRATA*: cover & 1-2 dominant spp. for each	STRATA*: cover & 1-2 dominant spp. for each	STRATA*: cover & 1-2 dominant spp. for each
Tree layer: Total cover (%):_____	Tree layer: Total cover (%):_____	Tree layer: Total cover (%):_____
Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%)_____	Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%)_____	Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%)_____
Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%)_____	Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%)_____	Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%)_____
Herb layer: Total cover (%)_____	Herb layer: Total cover (%)_____	Herb layer: Total cover (%)_____
Bryoid layer: Total cover (%)_____	Bryoid layer: Total cover (%)_____	Bryoid layer: Total cover (%)_____
Other diagnostic or notable species:	Other diagnostic or notable species:	Other diagnostic or notable species:
Condition / evidence of human use:	Condition / evidence of human use:	Condition / evidence of human use:
Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? tree cores? photos?	Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? tree cores? photos?	Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? tree cores? photos?

*STRATA are defined as:

TREE = canopy (if emergents present, note as "E");
SAPLING / TALL SHRUB = > 2 m tall and < 5 cm dbh: woody plants not forming tree canopy but > 2 m tall;
SHRUB = 1 - 2 m: woody plants 1 - 2 m tall;
HERB = < 1 m: all herbaceous vascular plants plus any woody plants < 1 m tall;
BRYOID = all ground-layer non-vascular plants.

date: initials: p. ____ of ____

NATURAL COMMUNITY SURVEY PART II: DESCRIPTION

-> complete separate description forms for **each** notable natural community on reconnaissance page.

IDENTIFIERS / LOCATION

Area (specific/general): Small Mammal Trapsite #13			Obs. Pt. # 1
Community type: Floodplain Forest			Adjacent communities: Low Gradient Stream
Quad:	~~(Lat.)~~ northing 4697670	Size (acres) of community EO (not site):	**BE SURE TO MAP EXTENT OF COMMUNITY ON TOPO.** Distinguish between portions ground-truthed vs. portions presumed to be part of community based solely on photo/map interpretation, where applicable.
(Quadcode:)	~~(long)~~ easting 0644980		

CLASSIFICATION HIERARCHY

Physiognomy (Class)	Phenology (Subclass)	Leaf type (Group)
forest	evergreen woody	broad-leaf woody
woodland	deciduous woody	needle-leaf woody
shrubland	mixed woody	graminoid
dwarf shrubland	perennial	forb
herbaceous	annual	pteridophyte
sparse vascular/nonvascular		non-vascular

(ALLIANCE:)

ADDITIONAL DATA FOR FORESTS

Tree canopy height:	Core data: ring counts (~ 5 cores) of larger trees (give sp. & dbh)	Deadwood (describe distribution, abundance, degree of decay):
supercanopy trees? None	① Acer negundo 13 inch dbh, 79 feet tall, >30 ybp ② Ulmus americana 14 in DBH, 51 feet tall, 28 ybp ③ Acer saccharinum 18 in DBH, 100 feet, >36 ybp ④ Ulmus americana 22 inch, 75 feet, 68 ybp ⑤ Acer saccharinum 54 in, 90 feet, 58 ybp	Moderate amounts composed primarily of tree limbs rather than downed trees. Diameter mostly <10".

HISTORY (describe evidence or lack thereof; please do not leave boxes blank. Indicate approximately how recent where possible.)

Fire:	Wind:	Cutting:	Agriculture:	Impoundment:
No	No	No	Fields adjacent to community	No

comment: Urban flotsam (bottles etc.), tree house, structures and roads maintained for waste water treatment facility

ADDITIONAL SPECIES LIST

Plant species

List additional plant species in community not included in the plot data that follows.

Impatiens capensis
Acer negundo
Phalaris arundinacea
Lythrum salicaria
Eupatorium maculatum
Solidago altissima
Cornus amomum
Crataegus punctata
Carex cf. radiata
Lysimachia nummularia
Symphyotrichum lateriflorum (Aster)
Circaea lutetiana
Bidens frondosa
Onoclea sensibilis
Solanum dulcamara
Oxalis stricta
Salix alba
Echinocystis lobata
Deschampsia cespitosa
Elymus virginicus
Cinna latifolia

Bird species

American Goldfinch
Wood duck
Rose-breasted grosbeak
American Crow
White-breasted nuthatch
Black-capped chickadee
Blue Jay
Hairy Woodpecker
Spring Peeper

Species list sketchy or basically complete?
Comment: Moderate survey effort

date: initials: p. ____ of ____

VEGETATION PLOT DATA

Area: Small Mammal Trapsite # 13	Obs: pt. #: 1
Community type: Floodplain Forest	(Regional alliance/community:)

LAYER	plot # 1a	1b	1c	1d
TREE list species and dbh for all trees >= 5 cm dbh; count standing dead as 1 species. note units: QUAD SIZE: note which size used 5.64 m radius for 1/100th ha 7.98 m radius for 2/100th ha use same size throughout!	Acer saccharinum 18, 26, 20, 16	N/A	Ulmus americana 7 Acer negundo 14, 15, 9, 9	Acer saccharinum 26, 11, 19, 6, 24, 25, 10, 9, 10, 14 * single multistemed individual
SAPLING / TALL SHRUB cover class by species of: trees > 2 m tall but < 5 cm dbh; and shrubs > 2 m tall QUAD SIZE: 2.8 m radius or 25 m²	N/A	N/A	N/A	
SHRUB cover class* by species of shrubs/trees 1 - 2 m tall. QUAD SIZE: 2.8 m radius or 25 m²	N/A	Ulmus americana 1	N/A	Cornus sericea 1
HERB cover class* by species for all herbaceous plants plus any woodies < 1 m tall QUAD SIZE: 1 m², 2-4 herb quads per tree plot. Enter individual values in left-hand column and average in right-hand column. Remember the zeros for spp present in some but not all herb quads when figuring averages!	① Leportia canadensis 37 Hatteucia struthi 9 Cardemine pratensis 19 Cinna latifolia 19 Pilea pumila 9 Geum cf. alepicum 3 ② Leportia canade 1 Boehmeria cylindrica 37 Cinna latifolia 3 Onoclea sensibilis 19 Pilea pumila 3 Gallium palustra 9 Cardemine pratensis 63 Impatiens capensis 1 Geum cf. lepicum 1	① Sicyos angulatus 9 Metuchia struth 63 Persicaria saggitata 3 Pilea pumila 19 Fallopia scandense 3 Urtica dioica 3 Alliaria petiolata 1 ② Urtica dioica 37 Metuchia struth 37 Rudbeckia laceniata 3 Alliaria petiolata 1 Myosotis scorpioides 3	① Metuchia struth 37 Poa nemoralis 3 Alliaria petiolata 37 Viola cf. Sororia 1 ② Metuchia struth 37 Lysimachia nummularia 37 Alliaria petiolata 37 Geum canadense 1	① Pathorum sedoides 3 Myosotis scorpioides 3 Boehmeria cylindrica 3 Zanthium stumarium 2 Leersia virginica 37 ② Alliaria pet. 37 Metuchia struth 37 Sicyos angulatus 3
BRYOID ground-layer mosses, liverwort, lichens in herb quads. resolution (check one): ① ✓ "moss"/"liverwort"/"lichen" only; __identified to major group; __identified to genus; __identified to species.	① Moss 1 ② N/A	① N/A ② N/A	① N/A ② N/A	
REMARKS	Portions of plot occ. w/ flotsam from river cons. of small branches + plant stem			Herb quad #1 from a vertical pool

In box on previous page, list plant spp. present in the community but not in the sample plots so we have a complete species list.

* cover classes (record midpoint): < 2 1 2-5% 3 6-12% 9 13-24% 19 25-49% 37 50-74% 63 75-100% 87

date: 25AUG94 initials: p. ____ of ____

TOPOGRAPHY / SOILS

Area: Small Mammal Trap Site 13 | Obs. pt. #: 1

Community type: Floodplain forest | (Regional alliance/community:)

Elevation: 294 meters | Aspect: Flat magnetic or true? | Slope: 0-10° measured or estimated? | Microtopography: Flat w/ depressions and channels

pH (note kit or meter type)

Topographic position:

(P) low plain, level
T toe of slope
LS lower slope
MS middle slope
TB hillside terrace/bench
US upper slope
E cliff/ledge
C crest
M high plateau
N narrow valley
D drainage channel

Habitat patchiness (describe zones or patches if present): Forested w/ open areas of herbaceous vegetation and vernal pools

Mineral Soil Profile:

horizon	depth (cm)	color	mottling	other
O				
A				
E				
B				
C				

Organic Soil Profile:

peat depth:_____cm OR > 1 m_____

vonPost decomposition:_____

ALL SOILS:

DEPTH TO WATER TABLE:_____

DEPTH to OBSTRUCTION:_____

Soil temperature reading _____ F/C at _____ (depth)

Surficial deposit:

bedrock
talus slope
glacial till
moraine
esker/outwash
glacial delta
(lacustrine/fluvial)
marine
aeolian
other:

Surface:

____% Bedrock
____% Boulders (>50 cm)
____% Cobbles/Gravel
5 % Bare mineral soil
____% Organic soil
15 % Litter (note type) broad leaf
____% Water
80 % Total vegetation
____ Other: During high water events standing water

Average Texture:

gravel
sand
loamy sand / sandy loam
loam
silt loam
clay loams
sandy clay / clay
peat
muck

Bedrock type:

Igneous
granite
dioritic
gabbroic
other igneous
_____

Metamorphic
slate/phyllite
schist/gneiss
other metamorphic
_____

Sedimentary
limestone
other sedimentary
_____

details?

Soil stoniness:

v. little (< 1%)
moderate (2-25%)
very (26-100%)

Drainage & moisture regime (see MAPPSS key):

very poorly drained
poorly drained
somewhat poorly drained
(moderately well drained)
well drained
somewhat excessively drained
excessively drained

Hydrologic regime:

upland
nontidal wetland:
permanently flooded
semiperm'ly flooded
(seasonally flooded)
saturated
tidal - irregularly
tidal - regularly
saltwater
brackish
freshwater
unknown

date: initials: p. ____ of ____

PITTSFIELD
Fire Sta
Subsation
Pits
DAWES AVE
MARION AVE
SAMPSON PKWY
WILLIAM
Egremont Sch
Herbert Middle Sch
Park
ABOVEGROUND
William Sch
HRVSWMA
Substa
East Part Cem
Court Hill
Morewood Lake
Halls Sch
Sackett
Gravel Pit
Sackett Brook Park
WASHINGTON
PIPELINE
Location of Observation Point 1
RIVER
Sykes Brook
25'
Gravel Pit
HOUSATONIC RIVER VALLEY STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
Ashley Reservoir
Sewage Treatment Plant
Sykes Mountain
Substation
CORPORATE BOUNDARY
HOUSATONIC RIVER VALLEY STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
St Helena Chapel
New Lenox
New Lenox Cem
Mill Brook Reservoir
Mill Brook
HOUSATONIC
LENOX
Sew Disp
Farnham Reservoir
Dewey Hill
510 000 FEET
Roaring
OCTOBER MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST
HOUSATONIC RIVER VALLEY STATE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA